

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

April 13, 2012

For More Information Contact:

Tim Jones, BS, Environmental Health Manager, Crater Health District, 804-862-8944

Shayla C. Anderson, MPH, CHES, Community Health & Prevention Supervisor, Crater Health District, 804-704-7554 or 804-862-8951

RABID CAT IN MARS STREET AREA OF PETERSBURG, VIRGINIA

(PETERSBURG, Va.) – The Petersburg City Health Department has received confirmation that a cat collected April 11, 2012 from the Mars Street area of the Bunker Hill community tested positive for rabies infection.

The Crater Health District asks any resident in this area who may have been exposed or has pets that may have been exposed to this rabid cat to immediately notify the Petersburg City Health Department at 804-863-1652, or the Petersburg City Animal Control Office at 804-732-4222. To report exposures after hours or over the weekend please call 804-840-7275.

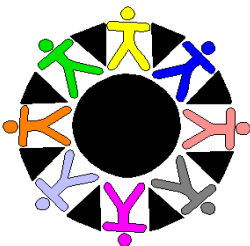
According to Tim Jones Environmental Health Manager of the Crater Health District, rabies is a fatal disease. It can be prevented with vaccination, but once symptoms begin, it cannot be cured. To report any other suspicious animal please contact the Petersburg City Animal Control Office at 804-732-4222.

The Health District strongly advises that people take the following steps to prevent families and pets from being exposed to rabies:

- Vaccinate all cats, dogs and ferrets against rabies and keep them up to date.
- Avoid contact with wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Do not feed wild animals or stray cats and dogs.
- Report stray animals to your local animal control agency.
- Eliminate outdoor food sources around the home.
- Keep pets confined to your property or walk them on a leash.

For more information concerning rabies, visit the Virginia Department of Health's Rabies Control and Prevention web site at www.vdh.virginia.gov/epi/rabies, or call the Petersburg City Health Department at 804-863-1652.

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Crater Health District
Helping Build Healthy Communities
804.863.1652